

Bildau & Bussmann

Wooden windows and doors

Care and maintenance of your windows and doors

Why regular care and maintenance are important

High-quality wood windows and doors provide a comfortable indoor environment, excellent thermal insulation, and natural aesthetics.

To preserve these benefits over time, all surfaces and components require regular care. This ensures the preservation of function, safety, and warranty, provides reliable protection against weathering, extends the lifespan of all elements, and helps avoid costly repairs.

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1 Wood Surfaces

1.1 Basic Cleaning

- Clean frames and any aluminum components with warm water and a mild, neutral cleaning agent.
- Use only soft cloths or sponges.
- Always rinse off glass cleaner residues with clean water.

Avoid:

- Abrasive cleaners or rough brushes
- Solvent-based or aggressive cleaning agents (e.g. ammonia-based products)



1.2 Surface Inspection

During cleaning, inspect the window carefully:

- Are there cracks, flaking, or other damages?
- Are there any visible signs of weathering (e.g. caused by hail, rain, or intense sunlight)?
- Slight color variations may appear on stained elements due to the natural wood grain – this is inherent to the material.

Regular inspections prevent major damage and help maintain the condition of the surface.

1.3 Coating maintenance

For painted and stained surfaces

- Professional care products refresh the surface, close micro-cracks, and improve gloss and water repellency.
- Recommendation: Maintain painted wood windows at least once a year.

For oiled surfaces

- An inspection after the winter season is generally recommended.
- For regular cleaning, use exterior soap (ecospray) or all natural wood cleaner (spray), depending on the surface type.
- Do not use other cleaning or washing agents, as they may reduce the protection!
- If you want to refresh the surface, please follow the manufacturer's instructions for the respective oil.

Surface repairs

- Minor damage: Scratches, small imperfections, or small dents can often be repaired with DIY-Kits containing fillers, touch-ups and appropriate tools.
- Major damage: Deep cracks, hail damage, or large areas of flaking should be handled by a professional company to prevent consequential damage.

2 Hardware

The high-quality hardware components of your windows are durable and reliable. To ensure smooth operation and full function - including airtightness and sound insulation - maintenance on a regular basis is recommended.

2.1 Annual maintenance

The following tasks should be performed at least once a year:

- Clean all moving hardware parts
- Lubricate all friction points using resin- and acid - free oils or greases only
- Check fastening screws and tighten if necessary

This simple maintenance ensures smooth-operating and long-term functionality.



2.2 Hardware adjustment

Windows are pre-adjusted at the factory and fine-tuned during installation. Further adjustment is usually not necessary.

In some cases – such as building movement – minor adjustments may still be required.

Typical adjustment points:

- Side adjustment at the top (pivot bearing)
- Side adjustment at the bottom (corner bearing)
- Height adjustment (corner hinge)
- Closing pressure adjustment at the corner bearing
- Closing pressure adjustment via the locking pins

Important notice!

Adjustment work including fine-tuning the fittings, replacing parts, or removing and rehangng the sash should only be performed by qualified personnel.

During painting or renovation, all hardware parts must be carefully protected to prevent dirt and / or damage.

3 Aluminum surfaces

Aluminum surfaces should be cleaned on a regular basis, at least once a year:

- Clean with warm water and a mild or slightly alkaline cleaning agent.
- Do not use high-pressure cleaners.
- Do not use strongly acidic or alkaline cleaners.
- Do not use organic solvents such as esters, ketones, alcohols, or aromatic/chlorinated hydrocarbons.



4 Glazing

- Avoid soiling from concrete or cement slurry, plaster, mortar, or other highly alkaline substances. Any contamination should be immediately removed using non-aggressive cleaning agents.
- Always use clear water for cleaning.
- Neutral cleaning agents or household glass cleaners can support the cleaning performance.
- Do not use alkaline, acidic, or fluoride-containing cleaning agents.
- Do not use scouring pads, coarse steel wool, abrasive cleaning agents, or sharp metal objects.



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5 Functional care

Wood windows consist not only of wood and coating - technical components also require attention.

5.1 Drainage openings

- Check and clean the drainage openings in the lower frame profiles or rain rails.

5.2 Seals

- Modern seals with an exceptionally long lifespan ensure that your windows effectively keep out drafts and water.
- Check the sealing contact between sash and frame.
- Clean seals with water and a mild cleaning agent.
- Only elastic, properly fitted seals offer reliable protection against drafts and moisture.
- Before repainting, remove seal profiles and re-install them afterwards.



6 Ventilation instructions

Regular ventilation regulates indoor humidity and ensures a pleasant indoor climate.

To avoid unnecessary heat loss, ventilate briefly but intensively by turning off all radiators and by opening windows fully two to three times per day to create an airflow.

With this so-called “shock ventilation”, you can achieve an almost complete air exchange in just a few minutes, without cooling down the apartment’s thermal storage (walls, radiators, furniture).

Especially in rooms with high humidity - bathrooms, laundry rooms, or after plastering, screed, or painting work - regular ventilation is essential to prevent mold.



7 Operation

Always open and close your windows carefully. Also pay attention to the correct handle position:

- Handle down: Window locked
- Handle horizontal: Turn position
- Handle up: Tilt position
- **Avoid:** Intermediate positions as they may quickly cause malfunctions.

7.1 Safety instructions

- Do not push the sash against the window reveal - this may overload the hinges.
- Do not place any weight on the sash (e.g. leaning on it).
- Excessive stress may cause hinge failure.
- Always secure the open window to prevent it from slamming shut. Fingers or other body parts can be trapped – risk of injury!
- Do not place any objects between the sash and the frame.



8 General Information

Bildau & Bussmann products deliver high quality, functionality, and safety - provided that the care and maintenance guidelines outlined in this manual are adhered to.

Maintenance requires little time: semi-annual, or at least annual, it ensures long-lasting appearance and reliable performance.

Detailed care and maintenance instructions for the individual components of your order are available for download on our website at: **www.bildau.net** (in the menu : Technology → Care and maintenance instructions)



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